

Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust, Gen. O.O. Howard House: 750 Anderson St., Vancouver, 360-992-1800. [vnhrt.org](http://vnhrt.org).

Confluence Project, 400 E. Evergreen Blvd., Suite 101, Vancouver. Jane Jacobsen, 360-693-0123. [confluenceproject.org](http://confluenceproject.org).

## NOTES FROM CLARK COUNTY HISTORY

In 1792, American Capt. Robert Gray discovered **the** mouth **of the** Columbia River. Later, British Capt. George Vancouver sent Lt. William Broughton up **the** river, and he went as far as **the** site **of** Washougal, naming Point Vancouver - 20 miles upstream from present-day Vancouver - in honor **of** his captain.

In 1805, Capt. Meriwether Lewis and Lt. William Clark visited and camped along **the** Lake River. After wintering at Fort Clatsop near Astoria, Ore., they returned and camped near today's Washougal in 1806.

In 1825, Hudson's Bay Company established Fort Vancouver, **the** hub **of** its Northwest fur-trading empire atop a bluff roughly where **the** Washington School for **the** Deaf stands today. Four years later, **the** company moved **the** fort to its current location closer to **the** river.

In 1846, a treaty between **the** United States and Britain established **the** 49th parallel as **the** southern boundary **of** Canada, presaging **the** transfer **of** Fort Vancouver to **the** U.S. Army in 1849.

In 1905, a flying field opened at Vancouver Barracks. Now known as Pearson Field, it has been continuously operating longer than any other airfield in **the** United States.

On June 20, 1937, Valery Chkalov and his two crewmates, co-pilot Georgy Baidukov and navigator Alexander Belyakov, set an aviation record by flying for 63 hours and 16 minutes from an airfield near Moscow to Pearson Field. They were greeted by Gen. George C. Marshall, then commander **of the** Vancouver Barracks.

On Valentine's Day, 1917, 40,000 celebrants opened **the** Interstate Bridge, **the** last link in **the** Pacific Highway from Canada to Mexico. In 1958, after many years **of** planning, another bridge was built alongside **the** original to meet **the** travel demands **of** a growing population and economy.

During World War II, about 120,000 men and women came to Vancouver during to build ships for